

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendments, claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 7, 8, 10, and 11 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. No new matter has been incorporated by the above amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner asserts that claims 7, 8, 10, and 11 are allowable. Because these are the only claims currently pending, a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

With the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that a passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, John W. Bailey, in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

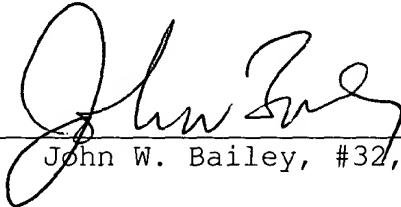
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 14 were canceled.